

## ABSTRACT

A sustain voltage applying circuit includes a circuit having a sustain pulse generating circuit for generating a sustain pulse of a predetermined waveform and an offset pulse generating circuit for generating an offset pulse higher in peak value than the sustain pulse, the sustain pulse generating circuit and the offset pulse generating circuit being connected in parallel, the offset pulse generating circuit including a first voltage source, a first switching circuit, an inductance component for generating a resonance voltage for the offset pulse generation, and a forward diode for permitting a current supplied to the display electrodes to flow forward so that the resonance voltage is maintained at a higher voltage level than a voltage level of a sustain voltage for a predetermined period of time, the sustain pulse generating circuit including a second voltage and a second switching circuit.